

Gen 22:1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Gen 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Gen 22:4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

Gen 22:5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."

Gen 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.

Gen 22:7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Gen 22:8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

Gen 22:9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

Gen 22:10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

Gen 22:11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Gen 22:12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

Gen 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

Gen 22:14 So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

Gen 22:15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven

Gen 22:16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

Gen 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Gen 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Gen 22:20 Now after these things it was told to Abraham, “Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

Gen 22:21 Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

Gen 22:22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.”

Gen 22:23 (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

Gen 22:24 Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

Gen 15:5 And He (Jehovah) brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Gen 15:6 And he believed Jehovah, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

Gen 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

How much (the height, length, width and depth) we see and experience (the solidifying our faith in God) “the revelations and visions from God goes along with how much we know what to “circumcise”.

How much we subjectively know and experience the above two will be the content with which the Lord will “test” us through all our life span.

Without seeing and experiencing “the revelations and visions,” which means for us to pursue the Lord and the Lord’s words diligently and desperately, we do not know what is needed to be “circumcised”.

From Genesis 15:5, 6 Abram had believed that his offspring would be like the stars of heaven. However, to me, Abraham and Sarah continued to grow, till at the end of Genesis 21, when God healed Abimelech and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children, Abraham and Sarah further realized and had faith that God the almighty (Gen 17:1) could make nothing into being, which might be why they were willing to offer Isaac to God as a burnt offering.

Gen 22:1 After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "**Here I am.**"

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take your son, **your only son Isaac, whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

God's "test" is to take away "your son, which is your only son, Isaac your beloved." Since Ishmael, born of Abraham's physical efforts, has been sent away according to God's command (Gen 21:12), now God desires Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the son of promise, to God as a burnt offering. Isaac typifies the grace of God, the basis for fulfilling God's promise, and the core of Abraham's joy.

However, God's "test" is not to take away the external things and the things that are easy for Abraham to let go, but **to take away the deepest and most cherished things in his heart, including God's promises and grace, because these things are most likely to become "non-physical idols" for us to replace God.** To choose God Himself, or to choose God's blessing, accomplishment, gifts... is also the choice that every spiritual descendant of Abraham (us) often needs to face.

Gen 22:1 After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "**Here I am.**"

Gen 22:11 But **the angel of Jehovah** called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "**Here I am.**"

We need to learn from Abraham that when God called or spoke to him, he was somehow ready to receive by saying, "Here I am."

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take your son, **your only son Isaac, whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Gen 22:3 So **Abraham rose early in the morning**, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And **he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.**

God's test here is to ask Abraham to give back to God what God had given him. This was indeed a "test" for Abraham. This speaks of a basic principle in God's economy: we must ultimately be willing to give them back to Him everything that God has given us, even what He has done in us and done through us, so that we can live **a life of faith**, not grasping anything, not even what God has given to us dearly, and relying solely on Him. After Isaac was offered, he returned to Abraham in resurrection and became a great blessing to him and Sarah and people like us. **In the same way, after we offer to God what we have received from Him according to His leading, He will return it to us in His resurrection.** This will become a blessing to fulfill God's purpose which is our growth and the growth of the church and the churches.

Abraham rose early in the morning, and this indicated that he obeyed God immediately because he had faith in God who would raise people from the dead and give life. That was his and Sarah's learning in Genesis chapter 21.

The burnt offering typifies Christ. The main thing is not to redeem people from sin, but to live a life that is completely and absolutely for God and satisfy God, and that Christ is the life that enables God's people to live such a life. **The burnt offering is God's food, so that God can enjoy and be satisfied.**

Gen 22:1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Gen 22:2 He said, “**Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

Rom 4:17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead.

Heb 11:19 He considered that **God was able even to raise him from the dead**, from which, figuratively speaking, **he did receive him back**.

Isaac was the long-awaited promised seed that God had given Abraham and Sarah. Ishmael had been cast out in chapter 21. Abraham had been living a life of the altar and the tent, even though no mention is made of him building an altar or a tent from chapter 20 onwards. Now, in chapter 22, God comes to test Abraham with the ultimate proof or testimony of a life of the altar, by offering his son, his only son Isaac, the one whom he loved. God seems to stress the fact that Isaac was Abraham's only son, and the son whom he loved.

Who is Isaac? Something given to us by God, even a blessing. Something that God has given to us to cause us to grow, and even to become a blessing to others. Are we willing to offer it to God, something that belongs to God and was given by God?

Do we believe that God will raise up and give life to what we offer back to Him? According to Hebrews, Abraham actually offered up his son, believing that God would raise him up from the dead. Do we believe that God will give life to the church when we offer our Isaac to Him?

Gen 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and **took two of his young men with him**, and his son Isaac. And **he cut the wood for the burnt offering** and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Gen 22:4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

Gen 22:5 Then Abraham said to his young men, **“Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”**

Abraham cut the wood for the burnt offering before he arrived at the place where he would offer Isaac. He prepared the materials before the actual offering. What does this mean for us? Sometimes, we think that when the time comes for God to speak to us to offer Him what is most precious to us, we will offer it if God requires it. However, if we have not been living a life of preparedness and exercise, to live on the altar and deny ourselves in the "small" things, it will be impossible, to respond to God when He speaks to us in the "bigger" things. It will be impossible to offer Isaac. Are we cutting the wood for the burnt offering in our daily life? For example, do we preach the gospel in our daily life? If not, it will be very hard to preach the gospel, even when God speaks to us to do so.

Abraham did not go alone to offer up his son Isaac. He took two of his service team members (his young men). This may mean that to live a life of the altar, we need companions (two means testimony). We cannot be independent. A life of consecration is a dependent life, a life that needs others. We may claim that we are consecrated, but where are our companions? Where are the brothers and sisters who balance us and protect us?

However, Abraham left the young men when it came time to offer. Abraham did not tell them he was going to offer Isaac. He protected them as a sweet and lovely service to them, to cover them so that they would not be exposed to a sacrifice for which they perhaps were not yet ready. He did not require them to accompany him, just like Paul did not expose his younger companions to the danger and suffering that he and Silas experienced in Philippi (Acts 16:16-40).

Gen 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son.

And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.

Gen 22:7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

Gen 22:8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

Gen 22:9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

Gen 22:10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

Isaac is a type of Christ, and Abraham is a type of God the Father. Abraham laid the wood on Isaac. Wood may signify humanity. God came to the earth in humanity, and even bore our humanity. However, Abraham carried the fire (God's judgment) and the knife (the putting to death of the flesh). Jesus Christ died as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). God was the One who provided the lamb in the case of Isaac, just as God the Father provided Jesus as the Lamb of God.

Isaac asked his father where was the lamb for the burnt offering. Everything else was ready: the fire and the wood. Abraham answered that God would provide the lamb. When we consecrate ourselves to God, we should prepare our person (our humanity) to be available to the Lord. We are even ready to be judged (or perfected) by God (signified by the fire) and have our old man crucified (signified by the knife). However, there is nothing in ourselves that can be consecrated or offered to God. The real offering is not ourselves but Christ as our offering, provided not by us but by God.

Gen 22:4 **On the third day** Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

Gen 22:5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."

Gen 22:6 And **Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.**

Gen 22:7 And **Isaac said to his father Abraham**, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "**Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**"

Gen 22:8 Abraham said, "**God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.**" So they went both of them together.

Gen 22:9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, **Abraham built the altar there** and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and **laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.**

Gen 22:10 Then **Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife** to slaughter his son.

"On the third day" means that after Abraham obeyed God's words, he was suffering from the expected coming loss of Isaac in his heart, and he did not get Isaac back until the third day. Therefore, this typifies the third day after the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, the day of resurrection. It also signifies that the person who offers himself to God must have the vision of the resurrection of Christ.

"They (Abraham and Isaac) went together" shows that our offering to God is not a unilateral action of believers (Isaac; us) only, but that God (typified by Abraham) also participates in the entire process - God initiates, man responds and submits, and God facilitates.

Gen 22:11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”
And he said, “Here I am.”

Gen 22:12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, **for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.**”

Gen 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

Gen 22:14 **So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”**

God tells Abraham that He knows that he (Abraham) fears God. To fear God does not mean that we are afraid of incurring God's judgment if we sin. Rather, it means that we are afraid of God departing from us, of His presence departing from us. Did not Abraham fear God earlier? Why does God now say that Abraham fears (honors) God? Because Abraham did not withhold his only son. He had tested Abraham because Abraham had grown to a point where he had grown in visions and revelations, and was in a position to be tested. If he had not listened to God and obeyed God, he would have been in a position of fearing that God's presence would depart from him. Humanly speaking, Abraham would have been “justified” in demurring, claiming that God's test was too severe. However, Abraham was loth to incur the departure of God's presence. His level of life was at such a high level.

If we are in a position to be tested, God will then lead us to a position where He may ask us to give up something which is dearest to our hearts. Otherwise, there is no way for us to be tested. Are we willing to be constituted with revelations and visions from God in order to receive such a test?

Did Abraham fear God? Yes. But God wanted to test him to take him even higher. Our fear and faith in God are relative. God will not test us based on what we do not have. He will test us according to our growth in life.

Gen 22:11 But **the angel of Jehovah** called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “**Here I am.**”

Gen 22:12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from **me.**”

Gen 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.**

Gen 22:14 So Abraham called the name of that place, “**Jehovah will provide**”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of Jehovah it shall be provided.”

The ram here was sacrificed in place of Isaac. It typifies Christ as the Lamb of God, prepared by God to replace the believers (us) called and chosen by God, as a burnt offering to satisfy God. .

The horn signifies the ability to fight, and the bush signifies humanity. As the lamb of God, Christ voluntarily let His ‘horn’ be held by His humanity, so that He could offer it to God as our substitute.

Gen 22:15 And **the angel of Jehovah** called to Abraham a second time from heaven

Gen 22:16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, **declares Jehovah**, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

Gen 22:17 **I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,**

Gen 22:18 and **in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**, because you have obeyed my voice."

Gen 22:19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

The angel of Jehovah in Gen 22:11,15 is Jehovah Himself (Gen 22:12,16).

The stars in the sky signify Abraham's heavenly descendants which are the descendants of faith including us (**Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise**), and the sand on the seashore and the dust on the ground signify the earthly descendants of Abraham who are Israelis not believing in Jesus.

However, in the eyes of God Abraham only had one descendant that is Christ (Gal 3:16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ) .

Gen 22:1 After these things **God tested Abraham** and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "**Here I am.**"

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take your son, **your only son Isaac, whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Abraham's offering of his only beloved son Isaac on the altar is a vivid picture of God the Father offering his only beloved Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice on the cross. In this picture, Isaac is a detailed type of Christ.

- Isaac was the only begotten son of Abraham, a type of Christ as the only begotten Son of God.
- Isaac is Abraham's beloved son, and Christ is the Father's beloved Son.
- Isaac accepted his father's will; Christ also submitted to His Father's will.
- Isaac obeyed unto death, and in the same manner, Christ obeyed the Father unto death.
- Isaac carried the wood for the burnt offering and walked to the top of Mount Moriah; Similarly, Christ also carried His cross and walked to Calvary.
- Isaac was offered to God as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah; Christ was also offered to God on the same mountain, fulfilling the type of the burnt offering.
- Isaac was "killed" on the altar, and returned to Abraham on the third day, that is, in resurrection; Similarly, Christ was nailed to the cross, and resurrected in three days.
- Isaac would be multiplied in resurrection, Christ was also multiplied in His resurrection.
- Isaac was the descendant of Abraham, blessing all nations; In the same way, Christ is the unique descendant of Abraham, and the blessing of Abraham reaches all nations of the world in Him.